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To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: MS / DOJ Settlement

The settlement terms relating to the provision of aid for US schools clearly provides mere temporary relief. After 5 years, how will these schools maintain their systems? The longterm financial burden upon these schools seems untenable, and the opportunity for Microsoft to further extend it's monopoly on desktop operating systems is quite clear. This is not a punishment but a marketing exercise Microsoft might well have ventured regardless.

The RedHat alternat proposal should be given consideration here. Children will benefit more from learning a Unix-style operating system as the GUI skills of using X-Windows will translate to any GUI desktop environment (including MS Windows) and the opportunity for them to learn in depth about the Internet and TCP/IP in general are greatly enhanced. Further, the Unix legacy of the Linux OS provides considerable historical value allowing students to better understand the origins of the Internet and the forces which drive it.

All in all, the RedHat proposal addresses some serious shortcomings in the agreement while providing much better longterm value monetarily and educationally to the schools of America.

Regards

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